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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

CRITICISM OF PARTY, MINISTRIES, MANAGERMENTS FOR SHORTCOMINGS
 IN HUNGARIAN HEAVY INDUSTRY PLAN FULFILLMENT

The following articles, which appeared in the official party organ and the organ of the Hungarian trade unions, summarize the shortcomings of Hungarian heavy industry during the second quarter 1952.

These shortcomings include lag in production plans, neglect of machinery, depletion of semifinished products, poor work organization, poor quality of products, export difficulties, misleading statistical reports, etc. Responsibility for these shortcomings is placed on party agencies, the ministries, and the enterprise managements.

It may be noted that the National Planning Office and the State Control Center (Allami Ellenorzo Kozpont), both under the jurisdiction of Erno Gero, are not included among the agencies criticized. The omission is the more noteworthy since both agencies have extensive supervisory responsibilities in industry. This may be an indication that Erno Gero continues to share exemption from public criticism with Matyas Rakosi.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Score Quality, Shortage of Finished Goods

Although industry is fulfilling the plan as a whole, there are still serious deficiencies in pig iron, agricultural machinery, motor vehicles, and other fields, and production costs are high.

Most industries have failed to establish the even flow in production urged by Erno Gero. Decreases intended to accomplish this in metallurgy, the machine industry, mining, and power production have not been enforced, because some of the ministers themselves are all too ready to compromise with those who believe that the necessary reorganization is premature.

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The question of uninterrupted production is particularly timely, because it is to be feared that in the coming weeks many industries will attempt to meet targets for the second quarter by presenting misleading statistics. The ministers must prevent this. Furthermore, quarterly targets cannot be met at the cost of neglecting machinery and depleting the stock of semifinished goods, because gains won in this way cause a slump in the following weeks. Industry must learn to make smooth transitions from one quarter to the next.

Some plants fulfill over-all quotas by turning out an unnecessarily large supply of semifinished goods, while production of essential finished goods remains below plan requirements. In May, MAVAG was able to deliver only a fraction of a major export order, because a few missing items made it impossible to assemble the merchandise. Irresponsible attitudes on the part of the technical managers lay behind this loss.

Irresponsibility is also reflected in the attitudes of party organizations and ministries which ignore deviations from the plans and make themselves accessories to fraud by permitting plants to swell production figures through manufacture of easily made goods rather than of those specified.

Quality still leaves much to be desired, and has actually deteriorated in some instances. Foundry rejects were higher this May than in December 1951. Heavy industry suffers constant setbacks due to unsatisfactory ferrous metallurgical products, such as open hearth and electric steel.

Party organs, ministries, and technical managers are not making a consistent effort to combat poor workmanship. They have flooded the plants with quality supervisors who, though necessary, cannot instill in the workers that sense of personal responsibility and pride in the company trade mark which is the essence of true Communism.(1)

Machine-Tool Industries Lag

With only 10 days of June left, the Hungarian machine industry is making a determined effort to meet plan requirements for the second quarter.

The Matyas Rakosi Works Machine Factory increased production in April and May after a poor showing at the end of the first quarter, but deficiencies persist in castings, bearings, and electric motors. To remedy this, some of the items are being made by the Stalin Steelworks. Recently, the grinding of drill sleeves for RM II and RM III drilling machines was perfected, a noteworthy achievement since the drills are intended for large-scale export. Workers have pledged to manufacture goods valued at 3,762,000 forints in excess of plan requirements for the third quarter.

Despite delays caused by faulty work and brittle castings from subcontractors, the Kobanya Machine Tool Factory has already exceeded its plan for the second quarter. However, similar difficulties originating within as well as outside the plant make plan fulfillment impossible for the Esztergom Machine Tool Factory. Failure to train skilled workers and to prefabricate enough parts to ensure the uninterrupted flow of production added to the defects.

Many of the faults encountered in Esztergom have been corrected in the past 2 months, and production has jumped from 49 percent of the plan to 98 percent of the plan. Because of fuller indoctrination, the spirit of work competition has been intensified, so that today conspicuously placed competition charts and loud-speakers proclaim outstanding production results throughout the plant. Enthusiastic workers intend to recoup their losses besides fulfilling the plan for the second half year.(2)

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Hits Shortcomings Behind Gyor Leadership

In the standing work competition between MAVAG and the Gyor and Gm. railroad car factories, Gyor was the winner for May with a record of 101.1 percent over-all plan fulfillment and 97.4 percent in finished goods. Although this lead has been maintained up to now, much remains to be done if detailed plan fulfillment is to be achieved in the next quarter.

Actually, Gyor's leadership is due to the consistently outstanding work of a few shops, which raised the production average as a whole. Analysis shows, however, that poor organization, lax discipline, and slackened competition in other sectors of the plant made Gyor a poor third as far as adherence to plan specifications was concerned.

Unless plant-wide uniformity of production is achieved quickly, Gyor will be unable to meet all plan requirements for the quarter, and may be hindered in the fulfillment of the plan for the next 6 months.(2)

SOURCES

1. Budapest, Szabad Nep, 14 Jun 52
2. Budapest, Nepszava, 21 Jun 52

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